



## California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2005 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch  
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

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### San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region

#### General Deer Hunting Information For

### **ZONE D-7**

(No Additional Hunts Scheduled)

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE**

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone D-7 located in portions of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tulare counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region Office, 1234 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710 (559-243-4005).

#### **REGULATIONS**

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/html/regs.html>

The 2005 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone D-7 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in Zone D-7, hunters must possess a Zone D-7 deer tag. This tag is valid during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take.

Additionally, Archery Only #1 Tags (AO#1) and Archery Only #2 Tags (AO#2) are valid during the Zone D-7 archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone D-7 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

#### **LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES**

Zone D-7 contains a mixture of approximately 60% public and 40% private land. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. The majority of public lands within Zone D-7 are administered by the Sierra National

Forest (USFS). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

**USFS Offices:**

Sierra National Forest, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis Ca 93611; (559-297-0706)

Wilderness lands have been established within several portions of the Sierra National Forest. The Ansel Adams, John Muir, Kaiser Lakes, and Dinkey Lakes Wilderness areas are accessible by hiking and pack stock. Public use of the wilderness is regulated by permit. Information on wilderness areas restrictions and Wilderness Permits may be obtained by contacting the Sierra National Forest.

**Reminder:** In the south-eastern portion of Zone D-7, lands within the Kings Canyon National Park are closed to hunting. This area is well-defined on the Sierra National Forest map.

In Zone D-7 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

**MAPS**

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer\\_maps.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html)

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the National Forest maps. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

**ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS**

Access to most public lands within Zone D-7 is very good. Major roads include: Madera County - State Highways 41 and 140, County Road 200 (National Scenic Byways Route) and Primary Forest routes 7, 10 and 81; Fresno County - State Highway 168, Watts Valley Road, Maxson Road, Trimmer Springs Road and Forest Routes 40 and 80; and Mariposa County - State Highways 140, 41 and 49.

**WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS**

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. Early in the season, temperatures are usually mild to hot with cold nights. Snow can occur anytime during the deer season, especially at higher elevations, and hunters should always be prepared for this possibility with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone D-7 covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care with any off-road vehicle and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of Zone D-7. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

## **CAMPING**

There are numerous Forest Service campgrounds within Zone D-7. The developed campsites are shown on the Forest Service maps. Informal camping is allowed on Forest Service lands, but campfires permits are required. Permits may be obtained from any USFS, BLM, or California Department of Forestry (CDF) office. During fire season, special regulations may apply, and it is always best to contact the local USFS, BLM, or CDF office for the latest information.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

## **HARVEST INFORMATION**

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

## **HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS**

Population trends for the deer herds in Zone D-7 are generally upward, although populations are still considerably below those seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone D-7 is the California mule deer. The deer that occupy the higher elevations of Zone D-7 are migratory. They reside on their summer ranges until they are stimulated to migrate down slope to their wintering habitats. Habitat quality and quantity, temperature, day length and weather conditions all play a part in determining when these deer will complete their fall migrations. Generally, from mid-October, or later, any significant winter storm has the potential to cause some migratory deer to move from summer range to lower elevations. If those storms are mild, some deer may delay in intermediate range, seeking acorns and other available fall forage. If severe enough, a single storm may result in the migration of a large percentage of the animals from the higher elevations, down slope to winter range habitat.

Deer are capable of sensing significant impending storms. They frequently migrate just prior to those storms, perhaps due to substantial changes in atmospheric pressure. Most of the areas considered summer range, particularly those areas between 5,000 and 8,000, are also good areas to hunt during early migrations. When these deer migrate, they frequently follow ridge tops and stream corridors. When driving along forest roads, look for freshly-made trailing off cut banks, adjacent to the roads.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone D-7 ranging from oak-woodland, mixed and montane chaparral, hardwood, hardwood-conifer, aspen and dense conifer to alpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

## **HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER**

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater

distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Start looking in areas which have been burned in the last five to ten years or where the oak acorns are mature and abundant. Although meadows provide good forage for deer, especially does and fawns, bucks tend to utilize areas with better cover during hunting season: rougher terrain (ridges, etc.), denser vegetation, etc. After heavy snow storms, deer will rapidly move toward the winter range or hold in transitional areas. Look in areas with shrubs or preferred browse plants at intermediate elevations.

No one location is guaranteed to have deer on any given date, however the following areas have historically been some of the more popular and productive areas to hunt: Fresno Dome, Granite Mountain, Sivels Mountain, Raymond Mountain, Whiskey Ridge, 77 Corral, Lion Point, Jackass Meadow, Crook Mountain and Long Ridge.

### **SUMMER RANGE**

Summer range habitat for the migrant herds may be found anywhere from 5,000 feet to the Sierra Crest within Zone D-7. Areas include the Kaiser Wilderness, east to Mt. Givens; Tamarack Ridge; Kaiser Diggings; Mt. Tom; Hoffman Meadow and areas near Wishon and Courtwright Reservoirs; Woodchuck Country; Spanish, Hoffman, and Hall Mountains. These areas can be crowded with hunters, especially on opening weekend.

### **INTERMEDIATE RANGE**

After winter storms, deer will begin to migrate through the following locations: west of the Kaiser Wilderness in the vicinity of Daulton Creek; Stump Springs Road and Mushroom Rock.

### **WINTER RANGE**

Once significant amounts of snow have accumulated at higher elevations, deer may be found at the following locations: Patterson Mountain; Fence Meadow; Secata Ridge and Rodgers Ridge.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

### **ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS**

In 2005, there are no additional deer hunts scheduled in Zone D-7.

### **2005 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**

#### **§ 360. Deer.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(6) Zone D-7.

(A) Area: In those portions of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tulare counties within a line beginning at the intersection of Highway 99 and the Madera-Merced county line; northeast along the Madera-Merced and Madera-Mariposa county lines to Highway 41 south of Westfall Station; north along Highway 41 to Yosemite National Park boundary; east along the park boundary to the Mono-Madera county line near Rodger Peak; south along the Inyo National Forest boundary (crest of the Ritter Range) to the junction of the Inyo National Forest boundary and Ashley Creek; east to Ashley Lake; northeast along Ashley Creek to the junction of King Creek; southeast along King Creek to its junction with the middle fork of the San Joaquin River; south and west along the middle fork of the San Joaquin River to the junction of the Inyo National Forest boundary; east along Fish Creek to its confluence with Deer Creek; north and east along Deer Creek to the upper crossing of the Deer Creek trail; north and east along the Deer Creek trail to the Inyo National Forest Boundary (the Sierra Crest); south along the Sierra crest and the Inyo National Forest boundary to Bishop Pass; west along the Dusy Basin Trail to the Middle Fork of the Kings River; southwest and downstream along the Middle Fork of the Kings River to the junction of the Middle Fork and South Fork of the Kings River; southwest along the Kings River through Pine Flat Reservoir, Piedra and Reedley to Highway 99; north along Highway 99 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone D-7 shall open on the third Saturday in September and extend for 44 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 9,000.

#### **§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.**

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

(4) D Zones.

(B) Zones D-6 through D-10.

1. Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(5)(A) through (9)(A).

2. Season: The archery season in zones D-6 through D-10 shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 days.

3. Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

\*\*\*\* GOOD LUCK! \*\*\*\*